

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A medical equipment management apparatus for managing a medical equipment provided in a medical facility connected to the apparatus through a network, the apparatus comprising:

    a reception unit connected to the network, configured to receive parameter data from the medical equipment located in the medical facility;

    a storage unit connected to the network, configured to store the parameter data;

    a prediction unit connected to the network, configured to calculate an expectancy of the parameter data to be received in the future based on the stored parameter data;

    a determination unit connected to the network, configured to determine a value of the expectancy based on the relation of the expectancy to a first predetermined threshold level and a second predetermined threshold level exceeding the first threshold level;

    a second reception unit connected to the network configured to receive a reference request for the expectancy from a requester;

    a providing unit connected to the network configured to allow the requester to refer to information of the expectancy based on the received reference request; and

    an informing unit configured to issue a notification message via notice to the medical facility through the network to a first address when the expectancy is determined to be between the first threshold level and the second threshold level and to a second address when the expectancy is determined to exceed the second threshold according to the value of the expectancy.

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the informing unit is further configured to issue a notice to a local maintenance provider which provides a maintenance service for the medical equipment.

Claims 3-5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the informing unit issues the notification message notice allowing a reference of a graph which shows the stored parameter data and the expectancy with the first and second threshold levels in chronological order.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the stored parameter data and the expectancy are shown in a distinguishable manner.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the informing unit issues the notification message notice including a first content when the expectancy is determined to be between the first threshold level and the second threshold level and the notification message notice including a second content different from the first content when the expectancy is determined to exceed the second threshold level.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the first content represents a necessity of a maintenance service for the medical equipment without urgency;

and wherein the second content represents a necessity of an urgent maintenance service for the medical equipment.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the prediction unit calculates the expectancy by statistically analyzing the stored parameter data.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the parameter data represents a characteristic regarding a part of the medical equipment at each of a plurality of times.

Claim 13 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the parameter data is given for each of a plurality of parts of the medical equipment.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the expectancy is the parameter data received at a predetermined time.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the predetermined time is designated.

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a provider configured to provide the expectancy through a telecommunication network.

Claim 17 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the expectancy is included in a report which reports information of the medical equipment through the telecommunication network.

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the expectancy is provided through an Internet web site.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a second storage unit configured to store maintenance contract information of the medical equipment, and wherein the determination unit determines the value based on the stored maintenance contract information.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the stored maintenance contract information is changed by an external terminal connected to the apparatus through the network.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a second storage unit configured to store maintenance contract information of the medical equipment, and wherein the informing unit also issues the notification message notice to the local maintenance provider based on the stored maintenance contract information and the value.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein the predetermined threshold includes a first threshold level and a second threshold level exceeding the first threshold level,

wherein the informing unit issues the notification message notice including a first content when the stored maintenance contract information is a first type and the expectancy is determined to exceed the second threshold level,

wherein the informing unit issues the notification message notice including a second content when the stored maintenance contract information is the first type and the expectancy is determined to be between the first threshold level and the second threshold level,

wherein the informing unit issues the notification message notice including a third content when the stored maintenance contract information is a second type and the expectancy is determined to exceed the second threshold level, and

wherein the informing unit does not issue the notification message notice when the stored maintenance contract information is the second type and the expectancy is determined to be between the first threshold level and the second threshold level.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a determining condition is stored for a user of the medical equipment, and wherein a content included in the notification message notice is changed based on the determining condition stored for the user.

Claim 24 (Cancelled).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the requester is a computer provided in a local maintenance provider which provides a maintenance service for the medical equipment.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the requester is a computer provided in the medical facility.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the requester is a computer provided in the apparatus.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information is a graph showing the stored parameter data and the expectancy.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the prediction unit calculates the expectancy in response to the reception of the reference request.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the prediction unit calculates the expectancy at predetermined times.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A medical equipment management apparatus for managing a medical equipment provided in a medical facility connected to the apparatus through a network, the apparatus comprising:

    a reception unit connected to the network configured to receive parameter data regarding the medical equipment;

    a storage unit connected to the network configured to store the parameter data;

    a prediction unit connected to the network configured to calculate an expectancy of the parameter data to be received in the future based on the stored parameter data;

    a determination unit connected to the network configured to determine a date when the expectancy is substantially identical to a predetermined threshold existing in the determination unit;

    a second reception unit connected to the network configured to receive a reference request for the date from a computer;

a providing unit connected to the network configured to allow the computer to refer to information of the date based on the received reference request; and  
an informing unit configured to ~~issue send~~ a notification message over the network ~~notice~~ to a second computer according to the determined date.

Claim 32 (Cancelled).

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A method of managing a medical equipment provided in a medical facility, the method comprising the steps of:  
receiving parameter data regarding the medical equipment;  
storing the parameter data;  
calculating an expectancy of the parameter data to be received in the future based on the stored parameter data;  
determining a value of the expectancy based on a relation of the expectancy to a first predetermined threshold level and a second predetermined threshold level exceeding the first threshold level;  
receiving a reference request for the expectancy from a requester;  
allowing the requester to refer to information of the expectancy based on the received reference request; and  
issuing a notification message via ~~notice to the medical facility through the network to a first address when the expectancy is determined to be between the first threshold level and the second threshold level and to a second address when the expectancy is determined to exceed the second threshold according to the determined value.~~

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A method of managing a medical equipment provided in a medical facility, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving parameter data regarding the medical equipment;

storing the parameter data;

calculating an expectancy of the parameter data to be received in the future based on the stored parameter data;

receiving a reference request for the expectancy from a requester; and

allowing the requester to refer to information of the expectancy based on the received reference request; and

issuing a notification message via a network to a first address when the expectancy is determined to be between a first threshold level and a second threshold level and to a second address when the expectancy is determined to exceed the second threshold.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A method of managing a medical equipment provided in a medical facility, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving parameter data regarding the medical equipment;

storing the parameter data;

calculating an expectancy of the parameter data to be received in the future based on the stored parameter data;

determining a date when the expectancy is substantially identical to a predetermined threshold existing in the determination unit;

receiving a reference request for the date from a computer;

providing the computer with information of the date based on the received reference request; and

sending issuing a notice notification message over the network to a second computer according to the determined date.

Claim 36 (Currently Amended): A management system, comprising:  
a medical facility apparatus, provided in a medical facility, configured to transmit parameter data representing a status of a medical equipment through a network; and  
a medical equipment management apparatus configured to calculate an expectancy of the parameter data to be received in the future based on the parameter data transmitted from the medical facility apparatus, to determine a value of the expectancy based on a relation of the expectancy to a first predetermined threshold level and a second predetermined threshold level exceeding the first threshold level, and to output a notification message notice indicating a situation of the medical equipment according to the value via the network to a first address when the expectancy is determined to be between the first threshold level and the second threshold level and to a second address when the expectancy is determined to exceed the second threshold, the medical equipment management apparatus also configured to receive a reference request for the expectancy from a requester.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A management system, comprising:  
a medical facility apparatus, provided in a medical facility, configured to transmit parameter data representing a status of a medical equipment through a network;  
a medical equipment management apparatus configured to calculate an expectancy of the parameter data to be received in the future based on the parameter data transmitted from the medical facility apparatus, to determine a value of the expectancy based on a relation of the expectancy to a first predetermined threshold level and a second predetermined threshold level exceeding the first threshold level, and to transmit information of the expectancy

through the network the medical equipment management apparatus also configured to receive a reference request for the expectancy from a requester; and

    a terminal equipment configured to receive and display the information transmitted from the medical equipment management apparatus.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended): A monitoring apparatus for managing an equipment connected to the apparatus through a network, the apparatus, comprising:

    a reception unit connected to the network configured to receive data from the equipment a plurality of times;

    a storage unit connected to the network configured to store the data;

    a prediction unit connected to the network configured to calculate an expectancy of the data to be received in the future based on the stored data;

    a determination unit connected to the network configured to determine a date when the expectancy is substantially identical to a predetermined threshold existing in the determination unit;

    a second reception unit connected to the network configured to receive a reference request for the expectancy from a requester;

    a providing unit connected to the network configured to allow the requester to refer to information of the expectancy based on the received reference request;

    an informing unit connected to the network configured to issue a notice through the network; and

    an informing unit configured to send issue a notice notification message over the network to a second computer according to the determined date.

Claim 39 (Withdrawn): A medical equipment for a use of a medical service, the equipment comprising:

a monitoring device configured to monitor data regarding the medical equipment; and a correcting device configured to bring the data within a predetermined range when the monitored data is not within the predetermined range.

Claim 40 (Withdrawn): The equipment according to claim 39, wherein the data corresponds to a part of the medical equipment.

Claim 41 (Withdrawn): The equipment according to claim 39, wherein the equipment is an X-ray computed tomography apparatus.

Claim 42 (Withdrawn): The equipment according to claim 41, further comprising a gantry including a rotation part configured to radiate an X-ray and detect the X-ray; a fixed part configured to process the detected X-ray; and a reception section, provided in one from a group including the rotation part and the fixed part, configured to receive a signal transmitted between the rotation part and the fixed part and to transmit an output based on the received signal to a following part, wherein the data is a characteristic of the reception section.

Claim 43 (Withdrawn): The equipment according to claim 42, wherein the reception section includes an amplifier configured to amplify the received signal, and wherein the characteristic is a bias voltage level of the amplifier.

**Claim 44 (Withdrawn):** The equipment according to claim 42, wherein the reception section includes an amplifier configured to amplify the received signal, and wherein the characteristic is an amplitude voltage level of the amplifier.

**Claim 45 (Withdrawn):** The equipment according to claim 42, wherein the reception section includes a preamplifier configured to amplify the received signal and a limiting amplifier configured to amplify the received signal amplified by the preamplifier, and wherein the characteristic is a bias voltage level of the preamplifier.

**Claim 46 (Withdrawn):** The equipment according to claim 42, wherein the reception section includes a preamplifier configured to amplify the received signal and a limiting amplifier configured to amplify the received signal amplified by the preamplifier, and wherein the characteristic is an amplitude voltage level of the limiting amplifier.

**Claim 47 (Withdrawn):** The equipment according to claim 39, wherein the correcting device raises the data to reach a predetermined threshold when the data is monitored to be lower than the predetermined threshold.

**Claim 48 (Withdrawn):** The equipment according to claim 39, further comprising an alarm device configured to generate a warning signal when the monitored data is not within the predetermined range.